

The Invitation

For the Hurting (Week 6)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Ideas

Hurting people often get lost in the crowds of the holiday season.

Key Scriptures

Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come to here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!" Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "My Rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!" And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.
Mark 10:46-52

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8

True empathy and mercy move hurting people to come to Jesus.

How can we pray for the hurting?

1. **Pray for vision.** Lord help me to see those that are hurting.
2. **Pray for mercy.** Lord help me to be an agent of mercy to those that are hurting.
3. **Pray specifically.** Lord remind me to pray specifically for the needs of those that are hurting.

Start talking.

- How can the holidays bring pain rather than joy?
- How is it easier to miss the needs of hurting people during the holidays?
- What often happens when the cries of hurting people go unheard?

Start thinking.

- Read Mark 10:46-52. In what ways was Bartimaeus "lost" in the crowd?
- Why does Bartimaeus cry out for mercy?
- How does the crowd respond to Bartimaeus?
- What caused Jesus to stop?
- Why did Jesus ask Bartimaeus what he wanted?

Start sharing.

- In what ways do you see yourself in the crowd?
- Why do the cries of hurting people often make us feel uncomfortable?
- How have you received true empathy and mercy during a time of hurt?

Start doing.

- Commit to the three steps of praying for the hurting during this holiday season.

Closing prayer.

Jesus give me eyes to see the hurting people in my life. Help me to be your agent of mercy in their life, and give me divine opportunities to pray specifically with and for them.